



**RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2015**

Board Members in Attendance: Chair Hutch Kerns, Laura Carlson, Pat Dennehy, Todd Dunnuck, Helen Hyatt, Forrest Merithew, Barry Mundt, Bob Pierce, Dean Pistor, Kim Reed

Staff in Attendance: Sandra Travis, Al Kopf, Pete Wall, Mark Halstead, Polly McDaniels, Christy Bass, Mark Halstead, John Gavin, Debbie Ivester

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting of July 13th, 2015 were approved on a motion made by Bob Pierce, and seconded by Forrest Merithew. Motioned passed in a unanimous vote.

2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Introduction/Welcome New RAB Members.

Chairman Kerns welcomed back Pat Dennehy and congratulated new members Laura Carlson, Helen Hyatt, and Dean Pistor on their appointment to the Board. He closed by thanking them for their service to the City.

b. New Officer Appointment

Chairman Kerns moved the conversation to New Officer Appointments. Both Chairman Kerns and Vice Chair Josh O'Connor are leaving the Board. Chairman Kerns informed the Board that with himself and Vice Chair Josh O'Connor leaving the Board, the only member to show interest in the position of Chair is Bob Pierce. He stated that two Board members, Forrest Merithew and Todd Dunnuck, expressed interest in the position for Vice Chair. The Chair explained the voting process to the new members. For the position of Chair, Bob Pierce ran unopposed. Forrest motioned to confirm Bob Pierce as the new Chair. The motion was seconded by Barry Mundt. The motion passed with all in favor. Forrest offered Todd take the Vice Chair position. Forest then motioned to confirm Todd as Vice Chair, Barry Mundt seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor

c. Recognize Outgoing RAB Members

Debbie Ivester recognized Hutch Kerns for his years of service on behalf of the City and the Parks and Recreation Department. Hutch served for six years as part of the Board and has been a big public influence with the roller hockey community. Josh O'Connor was recognized for his four years of service.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. FY 14-15 Capital Improvement & Deferred Maintenance Accomplishments

Pete Wall presented the FY 14-15 Capital improvements and Deferred Projects.

Barry asked status of White Fawn Park. Al Kopf stated the City has an agreement with Asheville GreenWorks for the development of a park master plan.

Hutch asked Al to comment on the difference in the budget for Capital and Deferred projects so the new members are on the same page. Al explained that most projects are funded out of the deferred maintenance fund, which is an allocation from the general fund. None of the projects mentioned today in the FY14-15 presentation are capital projects. This year, \$750,000 is allocated for swimming pool improvements, \$500,000 for velodrome improvements, \$250,000 for Carrier Park turf field replacements, \$500,000 for McCormick Field improvements, and an additional \$950,000 has been appropriated to Deferred Maintenance projects for delayed repairs and maintenance.

b. FY 15-16 Capital Improvement & Deferred Maintenance Work Plan

Al Kopf presented the list of projects for FY 15-16. He stated many of these projects will be supported by the FY 15-16 deferred maintenance account and not from the Capital Improvement Project accounts. Staff is currently reviewing projects and assessing levels of funding and priority; noting that some projects will be addressed this year and some may be pushed into next fiscal year. There are a total of about 40 projects in review and the goal is to stagger different stages of work to be able to match funding and resources to support the projects.

Kim Reed asked about the swimming pool improvement timeline. Al responded the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process is underway and currently negotiating with a consultant to do the audit and with the intent to complete the assessment this winter. Kim asked if the community will have input on what improvements they would like to see. Pete Wall responded the role of the consultant is to tell us what is needed to bring the pools up to code. The next phase will be community input. Kim also asked about improvements are planned for the Senior Centers. Al Kopf stated he will bring back information about that at the next Board meeting. Forrest asked about the system for prioritizing projects. Al explained we do this in a methodical fashion by first developing a master plan, review deferred maintenance, conduct a design audit, then staff gives input as to what they feel is needed. Pat Dennehy asked if there is already a policy/procedure for prioritizing. Al stated public safety is the number one concern, and then existing conditions are looked at, as well as needs, and community value. Hutch asked Al to inform the new members of the total parks and facilities maintained by Parks and Recreation. Al responded there are 60 parks and 20 facilities and that Roderick's vision is to focus on improving existing facilities instead of expanding the number of facilities.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

5. DIRECTOR REPORT

Debbie presented the Directors' Report on Roderick's behalf.

Introduced John Gavin, new Parks Planning and Development Manager, replacing Seth Handler Voss. John has served eight years with the City in the Public Works Department and on the Parks and Recreation team for about a month. Debbie thanked Al and Pete for filling in while the position was vacant.

Roderick is attending the National Recreation and Parks Association where our pending application for reaccreditation will be announced. The WNC Nature Center is also up for reaccreditation, and Chris Gentile is at the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Conference where it will be announced.

The City and Friends of the Nature Center recently signed a new memorandum of understanding for the role and responsibilities of the Friends as a nonprofit organization with the WNC Nature Center. They have renewed their commitment to help with funding for the Capital Improvement Projects. The Friends are currently looking for a new Executive Director which they hope to fill by November.

The Tourism Development Product Fund through the Asheville Convention Bureau is funded through hotel/motel occupancy tax and awarded to projects that will increase tourism and hotel stays. In recent years the City received grants from this funding for the John B. Lewis Soccer Complex and the US Cellular Center. This year there are three applications for City projects and all three were invited to make a presentation. 1) Carrier Park velodrome improvements, building the Beaucatcher Greenway, and helping finish construction of the crosswalk at Carrier Park, 2) New front entrance to the Nature Center applied for by the Friends of the Nature Center, 3) Artificial turf replacement at the four soccer fields at the John B. Lewis Soccer Complex at Azalea Park applied for the Asheville Buncombe Youth Soccer Association.

The Fall Program guide for Parks and Recreation is now available and located at each board member's desk.

The new time capsule for the Asheville Buncombe Time Capsule Project is a small stainless steel box designed by staff and has been tested for water tightness. The time capsule will be located under the cornerstone of the Vance Monument. A marker will be placed on the cap stone. The installation ceremony will be September 18, 2015 at 6:00 pm. Debbie invited the board to the ceremony, which is also the last night of the Movies in the Park Program.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM

a. Future Agenda Item

Asheville City Council 15-16 Strategic Goals

6. ADJOURN

Chair Hutch Kerns adjourned the meeting at 2 p.m.